

Safe Handling Guidelines

The health and safety of educators and students is our top priority. We understand that situations vary, so we have proposed a variety of scenarios for using the Discovery Boxes. Please choose the option that best meets:

1. The policies of your school, board and/or provincial education ministry
2. The conditions in your classroom and school
3. Your comfort level as facilitator

Most lesson plans can be adapted to work with each of the following scenarios.

Scenario 1: No handling of objects by students

Recommended for schools with strict physical distancing and material sharing protocols

Use the Discovery Box objects to create a traditional museum experience. Find a secure space in your class or school (like a hallway trophy case, or some tables in your classroom or library), and display the objects with their labels. Have students experience the objects by looking at them.

Scenario 2: Minimal handling

Recommended for schools with strict physical distancing and material sharing protocols

Touching and demonstrating the objects adds value to the Discovery Box experience. Designate one person (a teacher or resource person) to manipulate all the objects on behalf of the students. The presenter should hold the object for all to see, turn it around to examine all sides. Remember to describe how the object feels. Is it heavy, scratchy, rough or smooth? Help students to imagine.

If you're working with a single, small class, consider giving each student one object to handle for the duration of the loan period. They can become the expert for that object.

Scenario 3: Small Group Handling

Recommended for schools with small group cohorts and strict material sharing protocols

If your class is already organized into small groups or cohorts, consider assigning one or two objects to each group. Students in that group can work together to complete assignments and present their object to the rest of the class. Remind students to wash their hands before and after handling the objects. This scenario works best with a single class of students.

Scenario 4: Regular Student Handling

Recommended for schools with near normal school protocols

If your school has no restrictions on physical distancing and sharing materials, we encourage you to use the Discovery Box in the way that best suits your teaching goals. This could include setting up the objects in learning stations or running activities with multiple classes. Consult our lesson plans for more ideas. At all times, please ensure you are following the guidelines of your relevant local authorities.

Remember to have students wash their hands before and after handling the objects. You may choose to disinfect objects between classes or large groups. Note, not all objects can be cleaned. For specific instructions, please review our Object Cleaning Guidelines.

Additional Tips:

www.warmuseum.ca/supplyline/resource

- Consider making copies of documents like artifact labels and contextual images for your students to keep. You can make copies from the ones provided in the Discovery Box or assign them electronically from our website.
- Additional digital materials are also available on the War Museum's website. Many items like background reading, paintings, photographs and archival documents can be integrated into remote teaching plans.